



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

# Weekly Views

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner

***“For every failure, there's an alternative course of action. You just have to find it. When you come to a roadblock, take a detour.” ~ Mary Kay Ash***

Friday, August 22, 2008

Governor Daniels recognized 21 Department of Correction employees for their years of service to the state of Indiana. Stella Wilson received an award for her 45 years of service, and Dana Blank, Joyce Childress, Alan Holden, and Frances Watson received awards for their 40 years of service. Employees recognized for 35 years of service included Laurie Batchelor, Martha Black, Jean Cohn, Joseph Furore, Albert Humes, Ivan Jones, Dennis Johnson, James Kidwell, Patricia Morton, Ronald Orndorff, Kenneth Ray, Mark Starr, Alice Waddell, Sharon Weiler, and Brenda Williams.

Madison Correctional Facility held its first annual Domestic Violence Conference, where subject matter experts from across the state held various workshops. Around 30 community members and 150 offenders attended the conference, and a silent auction raised over \$800 in support of next year's conference and local service providers.

The Westville Correctional Facility hosted a college fair for GED students and recent GED graduates. Purdue North Central representative Ronald McGonagal spoke to the offenders about attainable goals, presented information, and encouraged higher educational opportunities. The fair drew over 400 offenders who asked questions, gathered materials, and explored the possibilities of a college education both during and after incarceration.

Pendleton Correctional Facility Superintendent Brett Mize presented a \$1,500 check to Pendleton Heights Middle School Principal Dan Joyce. The money was donated by the facility's PLUS unit and will be used to purchase volleyball uniforms.

The Plainfield Correctional Facility was featured in a WISH-TV news story in Indianapolis this week. The story highlighted and explained the ALERT Notification Service as it applies to the entire Plainfield complex, including the Reception Diagnostic Center and Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility.

Miami Correctional Facility held a facility-wide cookout hosted by Gospel Echoes of Goshen, IN. More than 200 volunteers grilled hamburgers and hotdogs for all offenders and staff at the facility. This was the fifth year the facility has hosted the summer event, and it is always well-received by the offenders.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility "Shifting Gears" bicycle restoration program recently donated 150 bicycles to charitable organizations. 14 restored bikes were donated to the Dove Harbor Women and Children Shelter in Anderson, 30 to the Project School in Indianapolis, and 106 to the Villages of Indiana.

Branchville Correctional Facility administration held a cookout for the hard work and effort displayed during the recent ACA Audit. The administration staff cooked hamburgers and prepared the meals so they could be delivered to all staff.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility Outside Dorm Inside-Out Dads Program recently performed clean-up work at the Facility Quarry Fishing/Recreation area as a community service project by painting playground equipment and repairing the dock.

This weekend, the Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility (PREF) will hold a graduation ceremony for participants of the facility's collaborative class with the Christian Theological Seminary (CTS). The partnership was the first of its kind for both parties, and the class was a resounding success.

This week, 5 offenders graduated from the PLUS Unit at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility. Two of the young men from the graduating class spoke of the trials, tests, and the awareness of their positive accomplishments.

The Staff Development and Training division recently conducted the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Statewide Trainers Conference, while it also hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Statewide Training Support Program Conference. Trainers participated in programs designed to enhance their knowledge and skills. In addition, an Awards Banquet was held to recognize dedicated staff. This year's award recipients were: Rising Star of the Year 2008 – Andrew Wilson (Madison); Program Support Employee of the Year 2008 – Trecia Bumgardner (Putnamville); Adjunct Trainer of the Year 2008 – Ray Waterman (Westville); Correctional Trainer of the Year 2008 – Richard Nalls (ISP); Co-Training Supervisor of the Year 2008 – Sharon Deford (Miami); Co-Training Supervisor of the Year 2008 – Nick Eblen (Rockville); Director's Award 2008 – John Cruz (Westville); and Facility of the Year 2008 - Plainfield Correctional Facility.